

12 July 2012

Lic Felipe De Jesús Calderón Hinojosa
President of Mexico
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Stop bullying Mexican landowners

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing on behalf of IndustriALL Global Union, which brings together 50 million mining, energy and manufacturing workers in 140 countries, to express grave concern at recent developments at the La Platosa mine in Durango, which is owned by the Canadian mining company Excellon Resources, Inc.

Last month, after eight months of delay tactics on the part of Mexican management, representatives of the ejido travelled to a shareholders meeting in Toronto to convince top Excellon executives to come Mexico to help sort out the long-standing violations of a land rental agreement signed in 2008.

When the company backed out of the agreed meeting, over seventy landowners of the ejido 'La Sierrita' started a peaceful blockade in an attempt to force the company to come back to the table to find solutions.

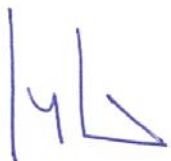
Violations include the company's failure to pay a fair rental price for the land and its failure to build a treatment plant to make water extracted from the mine suitable for agriculture in this drought-affected region.

Yesterday, Excellon announced that it was bringing legal and criminal charges against the protesters and was seeking government intervention to put an end to the protest.

You should be aware that this case is coming under increasing international scrutiny. In May, a case was lodged with the relevant Canadian authorities regarding the company's violations of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. Last week, an international observer team attended the union elections at the mine amid fears of violence and intimidation of La Platosa workers.

I would urge you to intervene to ensure that Excellon engages in good faith dialogue with representatives of the ejido. I am also seeking your assurance that no force will be used against the peaceful protesters and that their right to demand compliance with the land rental agreement will be respected.

Sincerely,



Jyrki Raina
General Secretary
IndustriALL Global Union